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I am going to begin by going back into pre-history. I don't know how many of you have read James Mischner's book "Centennial". It's a formidable book with 1,000 to 1,200 pages or more. I'm fascinated by it. Mischner goes back into pre-history and does a nice job describing the way life was before man was around. Don't ask me how he does it, what his sources are, or how accurate he is, but he gets me quite excited about the bison and the horses and all those creatures. He gives them names and zeroes in on one of them, follows its development, and you think you're there.

The thing that interested me was the concept of survival. Hundreds of millions of years ago, who survived and who didn't survive? And why? In this book he described the reptiles. He gets into one of the species that dies because it doesn't adjust in its evolution to cope with the changing climate and geography. But, some do survive. He talks about the attack from the wolves and he talks about how the care of the young, this instinctive caring for the offspring exists. Then sometimes something goes wrong and the parent doesn't for some reason adjust to the offspring or the offspring gets mixed up and gets with the wrong parent, not his own parent, but with someone else and things get confused and they get killed. But the thing that really struck me was the kindness, which is an instinctive kindness, that some of these animals would show to the offspring, or to another animal. When you analyze that kind gesture, you boil it down to what does it mean? It really means survival.

Now there is another element of survival that struck me as I read that book — another element of survival is conflict. One animal wants another animal's food or one animal wants another animal's mate, and the conflict develops. And one wins and one loses. Now the loser is likely to be dead, or if not dead, at least discredited and shunted aside. And because of being shunted aside into a backwater of the society, that society in which that animal lives is likely to die fairly soon.

So here is the survival. Can you call it ethics? Two factors come glaring out. One is care, kindness, and the other is conflict. Both used to survive and, of course, on the conflict part of it, the loser is not likely to survive.

Well, let's transpose that to the development of man. How long has man been here? I don't know. Mischner says a million years or so. I read something in the paper the other day about new discoveries of skulls in Africa or Tanyika. Our concept of the age of man on earth is being pushed back farther and farther. One thing about it, I thought ... what were the first kindnesses? What was the first generosity back there in our ancestors — and why? Was it a mother
society puts itself together in a meaningful relationship, in other words, one person says to another or one group to another, we belong. We wave a flag, the flag is a symbol of the belonging or the religion is a symbol of belonging, our economic system is a symbol of belonging, or the governmental system is the symbol of belonging...or any combination of these. The conflicts are so long as the society holds together. The conflicts are held under control by the sense of belonging and perhaps - perhaps, I throw this out as a theory - it's the generosity, the kindnesses that take place in hundreds of millions of ways in that group that tend to hold it together and keep it from being torn apart by conflict. Because both the kindness and the conflict are going to be necessary to survival because they are intuitive in us at this point.

The thing that kind of interests me is the breakthrough in the perceptions. For instance, in our understanding and in the belief of many people here, the Christ act in history. What Jesus was taught. The records that we have of what he said. What he did. How he acted. What his claims were. There are many claims and I'm not going to get into any theological arguments or discussions today and you can look at other religions for some of this same level of consciousness. But this breakthrough that really says love your enemies. Well, throughout human history your tribe is OK - the other is bad. Your nation is OK - the other bad. We are always having troubles with that. But, here you do have at least at one point in the history of human development and particularly in western development society, you have the Christ act. This Jesus who talked - walked - told. He said, look you better get the kindnesses and the generosity and the love - those things which bring that into your life had better be the dominant ones because it is the only way to live.

That was the perception of reality. If the species is to survive - then the species better know where its survival rests and as the species get more numerous, more intelligent - as far as figuring out ways to destroy itself - it has to find better ways of saving itself. And, it seems to me, that in the Christ act and in the teachings of Jesus, we have (and a lot of it happened in other religions too) a certain breakthrough in consciousness at that particular time and we really begin to understand that conflict should take second place.

Now what's the problem then? Why haven't we learned that lesson? I'm not sure I know why. But I know that conflict itself is a funny trigger, just like kindness is a funny trigger. Once you get kindness in motion, it has a tendency to perpetuate itself. You get a little conflict, you're not always kind, but you get the momentum going that way - things happen right?

If conflict is triggered - it does the same thing and it's very hard to get them into balance or adjust in position with one another. You constantly look - if you are angry or someone else is angry and you think and someone else thinks he is right - bang - conflict. So again, you usually don't walk away from anger saying - I was angry. I know I was angry and I lost that fight and I won't be angry anymore. But no, I am going to get that ______. And then again in the
Well, it is true, and there could be many answers to that. It is a complex question but one of the things that is fascinating to contemplate is that the United States of America in contemporary society is one of the only societies where people take money out of their earnings, not the taxes, but out of their pocket, and give it away. Give it away to reinforce the kindness motive and instinct for survival.

When those winners ... now the animal winner, the bison winner, doesn't care if he wins the mate he wants. He doesn't care about the loser over there. One of the things that we have tried to become is a bit more sophisticated in our understanding of the kindness motive. If you've got it you give some of it away to try to help someone else who is in a tough situation. And if you do that, you do that out of your own act. Alright, it might be tax deductible and all kinds of incentives, but generally the society does that - that is a different condition than a society that says we have to take care of everybody...so you tax. And they take the taxes to equalize it. My own personal view is in a society you have to have some of that, but if you go all the way you really are going to subvert the kindness motive eventually. It's all going to be part of a system and the conflict will emerge again because people are not voluntarily ready to enforce the kindness motive.

I had a very interesting experience a couple of years ago. I was sitting in the French Foreign Ministry - the Quai d'Orsay - and I was talking with the man who was in charge of the Western European desk, for the French Government. He had formally been second to the Ambassador in Washington so he knew the United States very well. We were talking about American foreign policy and how it was to be formulated. What we were good at - what we were poor at? How the French reacted to us? He said, you have one thing in your society that is different from our society and other societies. He said, I hope you can maintain it under the pressures of a completely socializing, equalizing society - or a society like ours, which is going socialistic more and more but which has an elite. But the elite in France has never taken care of those who are not the elite. There is no tradition of responsibility of the species to take care of others of the species. Not just a handout but to really help the others who have been less fortunate to kind of make it some way or find some way. He said the United States of America is the only nation now that has discovered that and knows it ... is part of the tradition ... and it is necessary for the rest of us that you keep it.

I am fascinated by that. Here we are in a situation like this with our United Way projects. We are faced with some serious problems. On the national level, is the government going to take over everything and we are impersonally going to be taxed for it or will we be allowed as human beings to re-enforce the kindness motive because we have plenty of the conflict in us by giving something. Or, is the big bureaucracy of big daddy, whoever it is, going to say, "We'll take it from you."
NOTES FOR SPEECH - "SURVIVAL"

Used Spring, 1976

I. Pre History
   a. Mitchners - "Centennial."
   b. Life before man was around
      1) Gives names to animals - follows their lives
      2) Development of the Rockies
   c. Survival
      1) Adaptation - reptiles cannot adjust to climate and changing geography
      2) Bison - attack from wolves - instinctive care of the young
      3) Mix-up in parents - sometimes disastrous - sometimes care and concern is shown
      4) Instinctive kindness - meaning is survival
   d. Conflict
      1) Food - mate
      2) Loser in his group shunted aside, often died soon in disgrace or at least out of favor, loss of self esteem
      3) Conflict to the death between different animals
   e. Two major factors in survival
      1) Kindness - both survive
      2) Conflict - one survives

II. Development of Man
   a. How long has man been here - Mitchner says about a million years
   b. New discoveries of skulls in Tanganyika - over a million years - existence of man pushed farther and farther back.
c. What were the first instinctive kindnesses - first generosity, and why?

d. Did a single female and a single male treat each other differently from the way they treated others?

e. GWhat were the first Kindnesses, the first tenderness that was understood - beyond unconscious instinct?

f. What were conflicts about - same as animals

III. Pride - Kindness & Conflict

a. Consciousness of kindness & conflict brought a sense of pride

b. GMeaning & satisfaction in intimate relationships if they are good, reassuring, supportive & kindly

c. Conflict - real pride to the winner - there usually is a winner or a loser

d. Loser must come back and win another day in another area - if he fails, he may be crippled for life

IV. Organized Group Life

a. GWhen & Why - probably out of both survival instincts - 5-6 thousand years ago

b. Role of generous acts that keep a society together

c. GUSA - symbols of belonging - conflict held in check by sense of belonging and maybe millions of acts of kindness

d. Both conflict & kindness exist in us - both survival instincts.

V. Breakthrough in perceptions G

a. Religious - Christ as an example G

b. Love your enemies - strong shift to kindness rather than conflict - conflict should take second place

c. More than tribes - larger scope for understanding G